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REMARKS

The above-listed claim amendments along with the following remarks are fully responsive to the final Office Action set forth above. This Amendment places the application in condition for allowance, or in better position for appeal, and entry of this Amendment is requested.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 14, 15, 18, 20-23, 34, 37, and 39 are amended. Claims 2, 6, 9-12, 16, 17, 19, 24-33, 35, and 40-49 are cancelled. New claims 50-72 are added. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 13-15, 18, 20-23, 34, 36-39 and 50-72 are pending. No new matter is introduced into the application by the claim amendments or the new claims.

In one embodiment, the present invention provides a positive-working imageable composition comprising a hydroxyfunctional resin having a covalently bound radiation-sensitive group, an acid generator, a colorant, and an isocyanate crosslinking agent. In another embodiment, the invention provides an imageable element comprising a lithographic substrate having a hydrophilic surface, and a positive-working imageable composition coated on the hydrophilic surface, the imageable composition comprising a hydroxyfunctional resin having a covalently bound radiation-sensitive group and an isocyanate crosslinking agent. The invention further provides a method of producing an imaged element from such an imageable element.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 13-18, 20-23, 34, and 36-39 as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,372,403 to Kurisaki, *et al.* ("Kurisaki"). The Examiner states that Kurisaki reports a photosensitive quinonediazide compound made by a condensation reaction with an oligomeric novolak resin, a crosslinking isocyanate compound, and an additional acrylic resin.

Claims 16 and 17 are cancelled by this Amendment. Claim 1 is presently amended to include a colorant and an acid generator. Claim 1 as presently amended recites a positive-working imageable composition comprising a hydroxyfunctional resin having a covalently bound radiation-sensitive group, an acid generator, a colorant, and an isocyanate crosslinking agent.

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The covalently bound radiation-sensitive group is capable of increasing the solubility of the imageable composition in an alkaline developer upon exposure to radiation.

The Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Kurisaki. Kurisaki reports a photosensitive resin composition comprising (a) a photosensitizer having in its structure 1,2-diazidonaphthoquinone structure, and a methylene-bridged structure composed of two or more methyl-substituted phenol derivatives, (b) a polymer having both hydroxyl group and carboxyl group, or a combination of a hydroxyl group-containing polymer and a carboxyl group-containing polymer, (c) a crosslinking agent capable of crosslinking hydroxyl groups and carboxyl groups, and (d) a solvent (Abstract). Kurisaki reports that isocyanate crosslinkers are suitable for use in the photosensitive resin composition. The photosensitive resin composition can be used as a photoresist to obtain films having high transparency and patterns having high contrast (col. 2, lines 12-14).

Kurisaki does not report the use of a colorant and an acid generator in the photosensitive compositions. Therefore Kurisaki cannot anticipate claim 1 as presently amended. Furthermore, since an objective of Kurisaki was to obtain films having high transparency and patterns having high contrast, Kurisaki does not suggest the incorporation of an acid generator and a colorant into the reported photosensitive compositions. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is requested.

Claims 3-5, 7, 8, 13-15, 18, and 20-23 depend from claim 1 and recite additional features. For at least the same reasons stated above, each of claims 3-5, 7, 8, 13-15, 18, and 20-23 is allowable over the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is requested.

Independent claim 34 recites an imageable element comprising a lithographic substrate having a hydrophilic surface, and a positive-working imageable composition coated on the hydrophilic surface, the imageable composition comprising a hydroxyfunctional resin having a covalently bound radiation-sensitive group and an isocyanate crosslinking agent. The covalently bound radiation-sensitive group is capable of increasing the solubility of the imageable composition in an alkaline developer upon exposure to radiation. Suitable lithographic substrates

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include any sheet material conventionally used to prepare lithographic printing plates; see Specification at page 21, line 21 bridging to page 22, line 9.

Kurisaki does not report an imageable element comprising a lithographic substrate having a hydrophilic surface. The compositions of Kurisaki are reported to be useful as photoresists for substrates such as silicon (col. 9, line 17). Kurisaki neither teaches nor suggests the use of a lithographic substrate having a hydrophilic surface.

The imageable element according to the present invention is characterized by a high practical light sensitivity, good differentiation between image areas and non-image areas, high resolution, easy, scum-free development, and long printing runs (page 29, lines 16-21). Kurisaki neither teaches nor suggests that an imageable element having these characteristics can be obtained by employing a lithographic substrate having a hydrophilic surface. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 34 is therefore requested.

Claim 36 depends from claim 34, and recites an imageable element that further includes an acid generator and a colorant. Kurisaki not only fails to provide the lithographic substrate having a hydrophilic surface recited in claim 36, Kurisaki also fails to provide the acid generator and colorant recited in claim 36. Claim 36 is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Kurisaki, and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Independent claim 37 recites a method for producing an imaged element. The method includes the step of providing an imageable element comprising a lithographic substrate having a hydrophilic surface and a positive-working imageable composition coated on the hydrophilic surface of the substrate.

Kurisaki does not report an imageable element comprising a lithographic substrate having a hydrophilic surface. Kurisaki therefore cannot anticipate claim 37. Kurisaki neither teaches nor suggests that an imageable element can be obtained by employing a lithographic substrate having a hydrophilic surface. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 38 and 39 depend from claim 37, and recite additional features. For at least the same reasons stated above, claims 38 and 39 are allowable over the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is requested.

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New dependent claims 50-72 are added, and are directed to alternative embodiments of the invention. As each of claims 50-72 depends from an allowable claim and recites additional features, each is also allowable over the cited art for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion


This Amendment places the application in condition for allowance, or in better condition for appeal, and entry of this Amendment and reconsideration of the application is requested. All claims are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues remaining in this case after consideration of this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney in order to expedite further prosecution.

Respectfully Submitted,

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